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BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF 1991.

FOR 03 OCTOBER

ITEM

UNITS.

1. HAITI: EFFORTS TO RESOLVE CRISIS

OPINION AMONG HAITIAN LEGISLATORS IS DIVIDED OVER WHETHER TO PRESS FOR PRESIDENT ARISTIDE'S RETURN, BUT ALL SEEM TO WANT INTERIM LEADER CEDRAS TO STAY ON AS ARMY CHIEF. MEANWHILE, CEDRAS PUBLICLY WARNED FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND THE OAS NOT TO INTERVENE AND RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT ARISTIDE COULD RETURN TO POWER, ARISTIDE HAS TOLD SENIOR VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS HE CONSIDERS CEDRAS THE "MASTERMIND" BEHIND THE COUP. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE BLOODSHED IN THE LAST DAY, AND MOST SOLDIERS HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR

COMMENT: MOST POLITICIANS PROBABLY ARE OPPOSED TO THE COUP, BUT MEMBERS OF THE HAITIAN LEGISLATURE PROBABLY WANT TO GUARANTEE THEIR INSTITUTIONAL SURVIVAL AND RESOLVE THE CRISIS BEFORE INTERNATIONAL BOYCOTTS ENGENDER TURMOIL AND HARDSHIP.

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